

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-17, and 19-20 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14 have been presently amended. Claim 4 was cancelled previously without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9 and 18 have been presently cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-6, 13-15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmidt et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,596,085). Claims 7-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al in view of Sun et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,409,839). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al in view of Pang et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,517,634). Claims 9 and 16-18 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

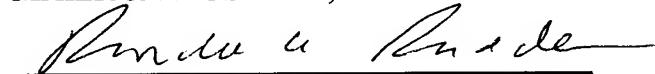
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9 and 16-18. Specifically, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that dependent claims 9 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 13 to include the limitations of claims 9 and 18, respectively.

Thus, independent Claims 1 and 13 (and the claims dependent therefrom) contain allowable subject matter, and are in a condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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